

REMARKS

The present amendment is submitted as part of a Request for Continued Examination, as submitted herewith. Claims 1-25 are pending, with claims 1, 4-7, 10, and 12-22 amended and claims 23-25 added. No new matter is introduced (see, e.g., Applicants' Specification, No. 20020184160, as published, ¶¶ [0014]-[0022]).

First, Applicants wish to thank Examiner Cheung for conducting a personal interview with Applicants' representatives on February 23, 2005. During the personal interview, the claims as submitted herewith to include the recited features were substantially discussed and are patentably distinguishable over the previously applied reference, *Stefik et al.*, U.S. Patent No. 5,638,443. In addition, it was noted during the interview the present claims are consistent with the allowable claims from patent application serial number 10/316,187, also being handled by Examiner Cheung. Accordingly, a Terminal Disclaimer over patent application serial number 10/316,187 is filed herewith.

Referring now to the present Office Action, claims 13-15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §101, as allegedly being directed to non-statutory subject matter; and claims 1-22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) based on *Stefik et al.*, U.S. Patent No. 5,638,443.

With respect to the rejection of claims 13-15 under 35 U.S.C. §101, although Applicants respectfully disagree that these claims are directed to non-statutory subject matter, claims 13-15 have been amended to more clearly meet the statutory requirements. Accordingly, all of the present claims are in compliance with 35 U.S.C. 101 and no further rejection on such basis is anticipated. If, however, the Examiner should disagree, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney, who will be happy to work with the Examiner in a joint effort to derive mutually satisfactory claim language.

With respect to the rejection of claims 1-22 based on *Stefik et al.*, this rejection is respectfully overcome, as the amended claims recite patentable subject matter. For example, the independent claims, as amended, recite "one or more consequential rights, the consequential rights being linked to another right and that are associated with

respective content and exercisable only upon satisfaction of a consequential event including expiration or exercise of the another right.”


By employing “one or more consequential rights, the consequential rights being linked to another right and that are associated with respective content and exercisable only upon satisfaction of a consequential event including expiration or exercise of the another right,” as recited in the independent claims, as amended, advantageously, enable the embodiments, e.g., as described in Applicants’ Specification, as published, ¶¶ [0014]-[0022]).

The dependent claims are allowable over *Stefik et al.* on their on merits and for at least the reasons as argued above with respect to their independent claims.

The prior art that has been cited, but not applied by the Examiner, has been taken into consideration during formulation of this response. However, since this art was not considered by the Examiner to be of sufficient relevance to apply against any of the claims, no detailed comments thereon are believed to be warranted at this time.

In view of the foregoing, it is submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance and a notice to that effect is respectfully requested. If, however, the Examiner deems that any issue remains after considering this response, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney to expedite the prosecution and engage in a joint effort to work out a mutually satisfactory solution.

Respectfully submitted,
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